

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS BENC, TW

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: CHINA SHIP BUILDING CORPORATION (CSBC)

ANNOUNCES EXPANSION PROGRAM

1. THE EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE CHINA SHIP BUILDING CORPORATION (CSBC) PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A SHIP REPAIR DRYDOCK AT ITS SHIPYARD IN KAOHSIUNG. THE NEW FACILITY WILL BE LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE SHIPS UP TO 150,000 DWT. THE DRYDOCK, WHICH WILL COST APPROXIMATELY US \$25 MILLION, WILL BE 280 YARDS LONG BY 55 YARDS WIDE. DETAILED PLANS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FOR APPROVAL. IT WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY 18 MONTHS TO CONSTRUCT THE DRYDOCK ONCE APPROVAL HAS BEEN OBTAINED. ACCORDING TO H.Y. LIN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR SALES OF CSBC, FINANCING OF THE DRYDOCK STILL HAS TO BE ARRANGED.

2. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE CSBC SHIPYARD, WHICH WAS COMPLETED EARLY IN 1976, GOT OFF TO A ROCKY START WHEN ORDERS FOR TWO OF FOUR ULCC'S TO BE BUILT FOR GATX-OSWEGO WERE CANCELLED. THE FIRST ULCC IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION, WITH A DELIVERY DATE OF OCTOBER 1977. CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY IN THE REAR AREA OF THE PRESENT DRYDOCK, WITH THE FRONT AREA BEING USED FOR SHIP REPAIR. ORDERS ARE ON HAND TO KEEP THE FRONT AREA OCCUPIED UNTIL THE END OF 1976. IN ADDITION, CSBC SIGNED ON AUGUST 16 A CONTRACT WITH THE GROC-OWNED CHINA MERCHANTS STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY TO CONSTRUCT FOUR 28,500 DWT CARGO VESSELS FOR DELIVERY

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IN 1978.

3. EMBOFF WILL BE VISITING CSBC EARLY IN SEPTEMBER
TO DISCUSS NEW DRYDOCK PROJECT IN TERMS OF POTENTIAL
SALES OF US GOODS AND SERVICES.
UNGER

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